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and not with formaldehyd on account of the greater potency of the former against animal life.

(b) After this preliminary disinfection, remove bedding, hangings, carpets, clothing and textiles, for disinfection by steam or boiling, or other methods prescribed by United States Quarantine Regulations. Subsequently the compartments themselves, with the nonremovable fabrics therein, shall be disinfected in accordance with the United States Quarantine Regulations.

Par. 7. *Personal effects*.—Clothing, bedding, and other such articles shall be disinfected in accordance with the provisions of Articles V and VIII, United States Quarantine Regulations.

Par. 8. After the cargo has been discharged, the vessel must be submitted to a disinfection of all parts simultaneously by sulphur dioxide gas of 5 per cent per volume strength for not less than twenty-four hours, in order to insure destruction of all animal life aboard. The remains of all rats and vermin should be gathered and burned, and the places where gathered subsequently disinfected. Rats must not be handled with bare hands.

Par. 9. After final disinfection as provided in paragraph 8, the vessel must be kept under observation a sufficient length of time to satisfy the quarantine officer that the ship is freed from all rats and vermin.

WALTER WYMAN,

*Supervising Surgeon-General, M. H. S.*

Approved:

L. J. GAGE, *Secretary*.

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NOTE.—Navigation Laws of the United States, section 5, act August 2, 1882:

\* \* \* "Every steamship or other vessel carrying or bringing emigrant passengers, or passengers other than cabin passengers, exceeding fifty in number, shall carry a duly qualified and competent surgeon or medical practitioner, who shall be rated as such in the ship's articles, and who shall be provided with surgical instruments, medical comforts and medicines proper and necessary for diseases and accidents incident to sea voyages, and for the proper medical treatment of such passengers during the voyage, and with such articles of food and nourishment as may be proper and necessary for preserving the health of infants and young children; and the services of such surgeon or medical practitioner shall be promptly given, in any case of sickness or disease, to any of the passengers, or to any infant or young child of any such passengers who may need his services. For a violation of either of the provisions of this section the master of the vessel shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$250."

*Precautions against plague*—(Continued from last issue).

January 19: The following cablegram was sent Acting Asst. Surg. Stuart Eldridge at Yokohama, Japan: "Eggs packed in and vegetables from infected soil forbidden. Notify Kobe, Hongkong, and Amoy." This order is a reiteration of the regulations, and unless viséed by a medical officer at this foreign port the quarantine officers in the United States are required to disinfect these food products in a 2 per cent aqueous solution of formalin.

January 20: Acting Asst. Surg. Wm. H. Carson announces his arrival at Santos, Brazil, where he was sent to aid in carrying out the United States Quarantine Regulations with especial reference to plague.

*Précis upon the bubonic plague.*

A pamphlet upon bubonic plague prepared by the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service has been published and is now being issued. This pamphlet contains the most recent available information upon the subject, together with the precautionary and preventive measures necessary to be adopted to prevent the introduction or spread of the disease.

As it is intended to be of practical utility and for the information of health and quarantine officers, it will be mailed to such officers or others interested therein on application to the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service.

New facts in regard to the disease and new measures which may become necessary to prevent its introduction or spread will be published in the weekly PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

*Duration of the immunity conferred by protective inoculations with antipest serum.*

[Excerpt from report of Chalmette and Salimbini, Annals of the Pasteur Institute, December, 1899.]

It has been stated that to afford efficient protection against the invasion of plague these inoculations should be repeated at intervals of ten to twelve days, as the probable duration of the immunity conferred does not exceed fourteen days.

The sad death of Dr. Pestana during the course of the Oporto epidemic affords proof of the correctness of this observation. Dr. Pestana was inoculated protectively with the serum on September 18, 1899, and was not again inoculated. In the discharge of his duties at the isolation hospital he became infected, and showed the preliminary symptoms of the malady on October 13 following, the period of immunity conferred on him being, therefore, five days short of one calendar month.

In contrast to this is the case of his assistant, Dr. Carlos França, who was protectively inoculated on October 8, 1899. On the 15th of the same month Dr. França, in making a necropsy on a case of very virulent plague, twice wounded himself on the thumbs of his right and left hands, and on October 16 again wounded himself at a necropsy on the ring finger of the left hand. On October 16 he showed symptoms of the malady, and with further serum treatment, passed through and survived a mild though typical attack of plague.